

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image carrier;
a blade member having a contacting portion elastically contacting elastically
with said image carrier;
a semi-conductive member installed on said blade member; and
a power unit for adding providing a voltage to said semi-conductive
member. member;
wherein said semi-conductive member is set apart from said contacting
portion of said blade member by a predetermined isolation distance Lb.

Claim 2 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said isolation distance Lb is set as follows:

$0 < Lb \leq 1.0$ mm.

Claim 3 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said isolation distance Lb is set as follows:

$0.7 < Lb \leq 0.8$ mm.

Claim 4 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said semi-conductive member is a tape with semi-conductivity.

Claim 5 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said semi-conductive member is a resin plate with semi-conductivity.